

ALISON TANG

A Profile

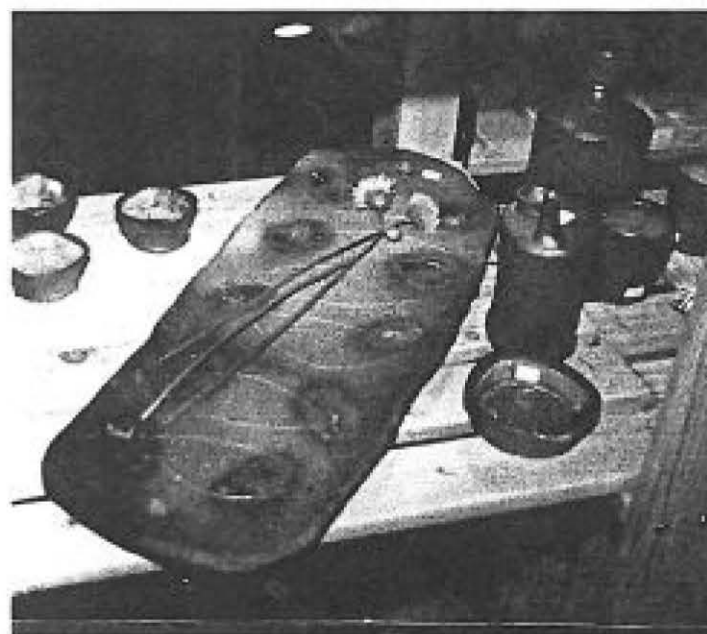


Alison is one of those classic potters. She's self-taught, worked her way through public studios and workshops into her own studio, and is keenly interested in developing her own style. She has moved away from electric firings and built her own wood kiln on her property. Her work is inspired by a Japanese Bizen aesthetic brought together with a West Coast flare.

Her pottery is generally a toasty-warm brown lined with a soft orange Shino. On some pieces she has melted deposits of aqua glass, which lend a soft touch to the wonderfully rustic quality of the clay body she uses. Her teapot handles are made of a type of grass found in the woods behind her house; the handles are designed by her husband Chris Gill, a chemist and growing aficionado of clay.

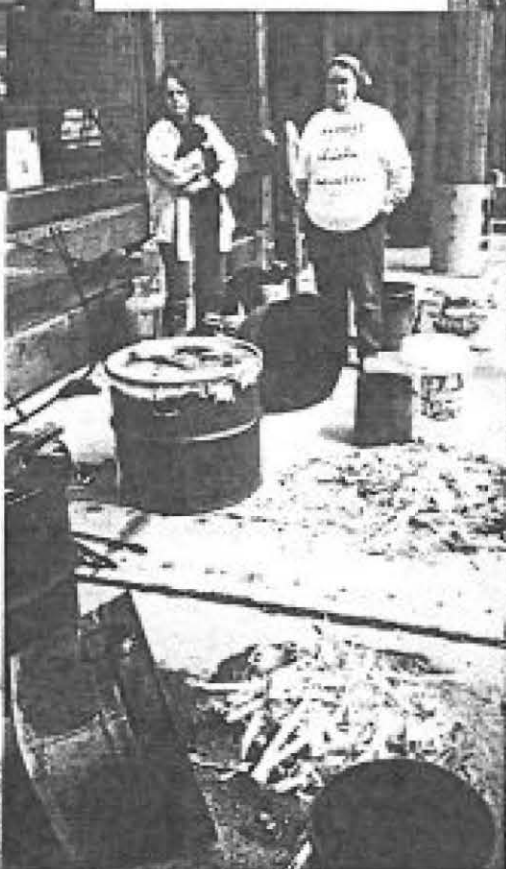
Although she has been working with clay for about eight years, she is just beginning to market her work and is exploring new avenues of exposure. She studied with various teachers in Santa Fe for four years and has been involved in the Tozan firings in Nanaimo. Alison was at the **Made of Clay Sale and Exhibition** showing her work in Vancouver for the first time.

Rachelle Chinnery



Samples of work that Alison Tang showed at the recent Made of Clay exhibition and sale

THANKS TO ALL THE MADE OF CLAYERS



Clockwise from top left are a few of the many who contributed

Heather Chapman
Carole Henshall
Neil McBriar
Keith Lehman advising customer
Darrel Hancock
Kathryn O'Regan
Lewis Krzyckowski

Centre

Ronda Green and friend helping at You Too Can Raku firing



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**NEXT NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE IS JUNE 7**

MADE OF CLAY

MAY 5 - 7

Once again, this exciting event has passed into history. Our post show questionnaire revealed few surprises; 18 of 27 participants responded. The most cited favourable comments were that the artists enjoyed the company of their peer group and the organization of the event. The majority answered the "not liked" question with disappointment in the low turnout. By a large margin, respondents want to return to the same site on Granville Island next year and prefer the weekend of May 4 to 6. Sales were generally below expectations.

The matter of low attendance, 1310 paid admissions, is truly perplexing. Throughout the past year I have commented on the marketing program that we were to use: the usual 200 posters were placed strategically throughout the city by a professional firm; two weekly announcement-card-sized ads in the *Georgia Straight*; and 20,000 cards of which approximately 16,000 were sent by unaddressed mail to the 40 most affluent postal walks in Vancouver and the remainder distributed by participants and the Gallery. In addition, we planned a promotional table in the Market; this was cancelled because of too few volunteers. Our **You Too Can Raku**, more successful than ever, held in conjunction with the MOC show, featured sandwich boards promoting the event and people were directed by volunteers to the south end of the Island. The Board will closely examine all aspects. I assure you that we will keep you posted.

We will include an application form and details of our **Made of Clay at Christmas** event in the next newsletter. Once again it will be held at the Roundhouse, this time in the large central hall on December 1 to 3. The participants in last year's show overwhelmingly expressed their wish to repeat the event.

Made of Clay shows serve a dual purpose. They provide the Guild with additional revenue to support its membership and workshop activities, and they provide an opportunity to all members to sell their art without jurying. Please ensure their survival by either participating as an exhibitor or as a volunteer.

Ron Feicht MOC Chair



Ron Feicht and Tanis Saxby haggling



*Pots were made by volunteers and
the clay was donated by Greenbarn.
Thanks for your generosity.*



Bruce Nyste demonstrating

PAUL MATHIEU WINS JEAN CHALMERS AWARD

The head of the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design Ceramic Department, Paul Mathieu, has won Canada's biggest award for craft. The \$25,000 prize is awarded annually to 13 top Canadian artists. Last year's prize for craft was also awarded to a ceramic artist, Leopold Foulem. Congratulations Paul!

GUILD NOMINATES TWO LOCAL CERAMISTS FOR BRONFMAN AWARD

Tam Irving and Gordon Hutchens selected

In early April, Ron Kong from the Canadian Craft Museum brought to the Guild's attention that we were eligible to nominate candidates for the Saidye Bronfman Award for Craft. According to the regulations, any single-medium guild may nominate a maximum of two candidates per year for the award.

Since the due date was April 30, we had to work quickly to submit this year's nominations. After consulting with senior craftspeople in the community, two potters were chosen: Tam Irving and Gordon Hutchens. We then discovered that Tam Irving had already been nominated by a previous award winner. We wrote a letter of endorsement for that nomination of Tam and continued with Gordon Hutchens' nomination. We wish them both luck. We'll hear soon who from across Canada will be this year's winner.

Next year we'll know in advance that we are able to nominate for this prestigious prize. Please be ready to submit your nominations next spring. We will give you a reminder but do start thinking about it.

Rachelle Chinnery

WEBSITES FOR EXPLORING

Have a look at the Gallery Besson website at www.galeriebesson.co.uk. The site is easy to navigate, interesting to browse, thorough and has a collection of fabulous work. The images are good quality and the variety of work is like looking through a quality magazine. There is a historical section with ceramists like Lucie Rie and a contemporary section with all types of pottery and sculpture.

Just in over the wire: Gwyn Hanssen Pigott's work is now illustrated at www.galeriebesson.co.uk.

Email your comments or internet finds,

Rachelle Chinnery

<rachelle@smartt.com>

www.galeriebesson.co.uk
www.bcpotters.com
www.ceramicreview.com
www.ceramicsmonthly.org
www.ceramicart.com.au
www.bennetbean.com
www.cabc.ca
www.clayandglass.on.ca
www.margaretdesign.com
www.metmuseum.org
www.ceramic-materials.com
www.ceramicsculpture.com

CERAMIC NEWSLETTERS

The Guild receives newsletters from other Guilds. You can read their news on line.

Baltimore Clayworks

www.baltimoreclayworks.org

Oregon Potters Association

www.oregonpotters.org

Washington Potters

<http://thepottery.com/wpa>

SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH EARTH

First World Ceramic Biennale 2001
Korea

August 10 - October 28 2001

The Biennale is an international cultural festival for the new millennium. The main event of the Biennale is an international competition; deadline February 10, 2001. Open to individuals and groups regardless of nationality or age; no restriction on size; may submit up to 5 entries; categories: ceramics for use (functional) or ceramics as expression (non-functional). Application form at www.worldceramic.or.kr or www.ceramicbiennale.org

MORE NEWS

Fraser Valley Potters Guild

On June 24 and 25, **Randy Brodnax** gives a workshop to members only at Audrey Fatkins' studio.

Ronda Green showed slides of her handbuilt work and submissions to the *Outrageous Egg Cup* contest at the May meeting and **Charlotte Lightman** cited her influences and demonstrated her intricate slab techniques in April.

On June 3 and 4 between 9:00-16:00, **Graham Sheehan** leads a group in the construction of a 25 cubic ft downdraft gas kiln. Limited to 15. Fee: \$50. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. Daphne Scaman studio in Abbotsford. Contact Dave or Harmany at Greenbarn Pottery for information and registration 604.888.3411.

Cathi Jefferson says there are videotapes of some events at the Canadian Clay Symposium available to participating Guilds. Call your Guild for information.

www.bcpotters.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Ronda helping with You Too Can Raku at the recent Made of Clay exhibition and sale

RONDA RETURNS

After a sixteen year baby sabbatical, (I stepped out of the President's shoes in 1984), I am stepping back in. No, it is not premature dementia or cabin fever that motivates me. It is the rewards gained from a shared passion of clay and art as a lifestyle, encounters with ever changing challenges and the camaraderie of a diverse bunch of potters whom I have had the pleasure of enjoying over the decades. All this inspires me.

I first joined the Potters Guild in 1976 when I was a ceramic student at The Vancouver School of Art, now Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. Many of this old gang are still around, and smiling, many more of you I have happily become acquainted with and there are many others I have yet to meet. The support and networking of our clay community has been invaluable to me and I would like to be part of strengthening and expanding similar opportunities to all clay people in our province.

Now is a very good time to think of ways how the existing Guild can grow into being 'most things to most people.' What was that about challenges? I have worked with the present Board for two years, (except our new members Maggie Kneer, Jim Stamper and Louis de la Torre) and they are a generous, dedicated crew of idealists. Please feel free to corral any of them or me to discuss how you think the Guild could be beneficial for you and your ambitions in clay.

Have a great June. Talk to you again in the combined July/August issue.
Ronda Green

GUILD GETS A PAT ON THE BACK

At the AGM this year, **A Loving Spoonful** presented a thank you plaque to the Potters Guild of BC. Karen Opas, former newsletter editor, current PGBC member, and now volunteer coordinator with **A Loving Spoonful** gave the award and expressed thanks to all the potters who helped make this year's **Project Empty Bowl** a success. This year's potters helped provide meals for 10,000 chronically ill men, women and children. Thank you all again.

ANNUAL REPORT

Contact the Guild office for a copy of the Annual Report. Please indicate if you would like the year end financial statements developed in-house or if you would prefer the larger, reviewed version available later.

Are you covered?

Ellen Young, our representative from Whillis-Harding Insurance Agencies Ltd, made a presentation at the Annual General Meeting and encouraged attending members to go home and check their house insurance policy. Did you know that most home insurance policies do not cover home businesses, including pottery studios? If there is a claim, even if the cause of the claim was not the pottery studio, its existence could still void your insurance if it was not identified in the original policy. Their policies cover work while in transit or on display in an exhibition; as well as work in progress, equipment and raw materials.

For more information, please call 1.800.667.2217 which is a direct line to the association group policy division or email Ellen Young <ellenyoung@willisharding.com>

Jane Matthews General Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ronna Ander	604.921.7576
Rachelle Chinnery	604.874.8518
Louis de la Torre	
Ron Feicht	604.921.6677
Ronda Green	604.921.9888
Maggi Kneer	604.929.3206
Dona Nabata	604.222.2927
Celia Rice-Jones	604.522.8803
Debra Sloan	604.736.3039
Jim Stamper	604.450.4602
Frank Turco	604.526.6074
Ron Vallis Past-President	604.325.0609

At the next Board meeting, the executive will be elected and committees organized. They will be announced in the next newsletter.

TECHNO TIP

Electric Kilns: catch the wave

Tony Hansen

In the past electric kiln users felt somewhat like second class citizens in a ceramic community that idolized high temperature gas firing. While it is true that exciting developments in gas kiln equipment have made this medium even more compelling, the electric kiln has undergone a bit of a renaissance in the past five years and most of the cons have been erased. Here are a few examples:

Electronic controllers: If you don't have one get one. Case closed. Electric firing is about consistency and control and these devices take that advantage much further. They work very well and save energy. Crystalline glazes for example were once the domain of a select few but now they are simple because of these devices. Check the article in May 2000 **Pottery Making Illustrated** magazine for a good example.

ITC: This coating material can be applied to elements and the insides of kilns to give electric kilns better durability and economy. ITC coated elements last many

times longer and can withstand reduction firing!

Electric Reduction: Nils Lou, author of **The Art of Firing**, has done hundreds of firings using a simple Bunsen burner under his ITC-coated electric kiln. It works and works well.

Stoneware is simply dense and strong non-porous ceramic. It is no longer synonymous with cone 10; it can be made as low as cone 1. However making attractive and fitted glazes at low and medium fire is more difficult. But with the recent proliferation of books on cone 6 electric firing for example, this is no longer true. The internet and glaze calculation software have also fostered the spread in glaze technology. Despite what anyone tells you, matte and gloss effects of most types can be done in electric firing.

Where do you start to catch this wave? Not wanting to be biased, let me give you two websites that I made: Go to <http://>

digitalfire.com to learn about glazes. See <http://axner.com> to buy books, ITC and controllers.

Useful Websites

<http://digitalfire.com>
calculation/database software

<http://axner.com>
books, ITC and controllers

<http://ceramicsearch.com>
search engine

Help to Convert Glaze Recipes

Ron Roy <ronroy@astral.magic.ca>



PLAINSMAN Clays Limited

Box 1266, Medicine Hat, Alta. T1A 7M9
Phone 403-527-8535 FAX 527-7508
Internet: <http://digitalfire.com/plainsman>

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Greenbarn Potters Supply Surrey, B.C. Phone: 604-888-3411
Vancouver Island Pottery Nanaimo, B.C. Phone: 250-716-9966
Warehouse Inc.



TECHNO TIP

Tile and Mosaics: a source of income

Tony Hansen

At Plainsman we are always amazed at how well some of our tile-making customers are doing and how quickly their businesses sometimes grow. You may not be aware of how quickly the hand-decorated tile, custom tile, and mosaic tile businesses have increased in the past couple of years. For example, visit <http://axner.com> and search the 'books' area for the word 'tile.' Stunning new books are available. There are interesting aspects of tile production that make it a good source of income compared to more traditional forms of hobby pottery. You don't have to make the tile; you can buy them already bisque fired. Huge tile plants in Turkey and Italy measure their output in acres per day and bisque tiles are inexpensive. Do search for a supplier that buys in volume.

Wax Line: This is a great product sold only at the axner.com site. If you want to hand decorate or silk-screen, check this site.

Tiles are flat allowing you to silkscreen decoration onto them and do large murals

or repeated designs easily. You can utilize graphics software on your computer in the design and pattern making process.

If you buy bisque tile and work at low fire you can expect much fewer manufacturing problems and you'll be able to gear your production up very quickly.

While great tiles can be made at any temperature and in any kiln, this is one area where *electric kiln users have a big advantage*. Low fire is economical and technically ideal for tile production because the tiles don't warp or sag during firing and you can utilize very brightly colored glazes.

Mosaics add a third dimension to tile craft. They can be applied to almost any surface including pottery. There are many ways to fire the small tiles and warping and shrinkage problems are a non-issue. Stunning examples of mosaic tile can be found in currently available books.

If you want to *make your own tiles* you should be aware that avoiding cracks and

warping during firing and drying can be very difficult. *Dust pressing* is the best method for tile making, *RAM pressing* second best, then *hand pressing*, *extruding*, *slab rolling*, and *hand rolling*. Plastic clays shrink too much and the higher the firing temperature, the more shrinkage.

The tile industry is very well represented on the internet, perhaps better than any other segment of ceramics. Check out a search engine for some inspiration. I have lots of tile sites listed at <http://ceramicsearch.com> although it may be incomplete.

The information in this article has been prepared by Tony Hansen with the generous support of Plainsman Clays Limited in Alberta. Greenbarn in the Fraser Valley and Island Pottery Warehouse on Vancouver island are affiliates.

Do you have a query? Please call or email the editor or the Guild office.



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Internet: www.greenbarn.com

TRAVEL AND WORKSHOPS

MEXICO

SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

November 30 - December 15, 2000

**workshop/ceramics-bronze casting/
art/spanish**

Also handbuilding and low temperature firing. Fee \$1595 -1795 Cdn. Includes return airfare from Vancouver, accommodation, meals, tuition. Mail deposit: \$100

OAXACA

January 18 - February 6, 2001

workshop/excursion/language/art

Also construction and woodfiring of an adobe bottle kiln, ancient pottery village visitations. Homestay with Mexican family. Fee \$1795 - 1995 Cdn. Includes airfare from Vancouver, accommodation, tuition, materials. Deposit \$100 Cdn.

BARRA DE POTOSI

February 15 - 26, 2001

**workshop/clay meditation/massage/
yoga**

Denys James-awareness and meditation; Valerie Hamill-massage and accupressure; Celeste Mallette- yoga. Also available are boat excursions, horseback riding, ocean sports, etc. Fee \$1950 Cdn. Includes airfare from Vancouver, oceanfront accommodation, 2 massages, daily yoga, clay meditation experiences. Deposit \$100 Cdn

Denys James, 182 Welbury Drive, Saltspring Island, BC V8K 2L8
phone or fax 250.537.4906
email <denysjames@hotmail.com>

CORTES ISLAND

June 11-17 *Raku Workshop* Regnor Reinholdtsen Handbuilding, glazing, raku firing, kiln building

July 2-8 and Sept 3-9 *Form and Identity* Eliz Olivelli Functional & sculptural work emphasizing indigenous techniques of Southeast, Northeast & Mexican Indians.

Both workshops: beachfront retreat, kayaking, swimming, hot tub. Contact Carol Mann 250.935.6901, 250.935.6409 <kalayastarre@hotmail.com>

CLOUDFLOWER CLAYWORKS

Burnaby

June 1 Thurs 19:00-22:00 3 sessions *Glaze Workshop I* Jeanne Sarich Fee: \$65

July 6 Thurs 19:00-22:00 3 sessions *Glaze Workshop II* Jeanne Sarich Fee: \$65

August 3 Thurs 19:00-22:00 3 sessions *Glaze Workshop III* Jeanne Sarich \$65

July 8 Sat 3 sessions *Raku with a Difference* Jeanne Sarich Fee: \$120

Sept 9 Sat 13:00-16:30 1 session *Making Brushes by Hand* Deb Taylor Fee: \$40

Work and learn: take a course and learn studio management. In lieu of the fee give equal work time to studio chores.

Services to potters: private training, glaze investigation, technical consulting, custom firing, short term studio rental and homestay accommodation.

All the above workshops at CloudfLOWER Clayworks, 6928A Palm Ave, Burnaby, BC, V5H 3M4, 604.430.5380 or email <jeanne_sarich@telus.net>

GORDON HUTCHENS

The Nature of Clay Workshop

August 25 - 30

Hollyhock, Cortes Island BC

Work with the elemental quality of clay, combining earth with water, air and fire, transforming these with your own unique spirit. Handbuild clay forms or vessels using the natural textures of stone, bark, driftwood, and shells; later fire in a woodfired kiln. Make brushes from cedar bark or hair for glazing and decorating.

Gordon is an internationally recognized potter who works from his studio on Denman Island. He has had more than 25 solo and 75 group exhibitions and is the author/ host of four videos on Raku, Salt, and Soda firing.

Tuition: \$395 + \$25 materials, 5 nights
Information and registration:
800.933.6339, www.hollyhock.bc.ca or
<http://mars.ark.com/~hutchens> or email
<hutchens@mars.ark.com>

Ceramics Arts Summer Courses

Handbuilding and Primitive Firing

Sabrina Keskula

Mon/Wed July 3 19:00-22:00

\$115.26 8 sessions

Summer Pottery

Fredi Rahn (daytime)

Jay MacLennan (evening)

Mon/Wed July 5 10:00-13:00

Tues/Thurs July 4 19:00-22:00

\$115.26 8 sessions

Earthenware: Decorating techniques

Gillian McMillan

Sunday July 16 1 session 10:00-16:00

\$43.51 includes open workshop ticket for glazing your work

Into the Fire: Raku Workshop

John Charnetski and Rondeau Fenton

Sunday July 30 1 session 10:00-16:00

\$69.55, bring max. of four 6" diameter pots to decorate and fire

Call 604.291.6864 for information and registration



SHADBOLT CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
6450 Deer Lake Avenue
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 2J3

SHADBOLT CENTRE for the ARTS

EXHIBITIONS

Rachelle Chinnery *Speaking in Tongues*

May 4-30, reception Thurs May 4 18:00 -20:00.
Portfolio Gallery,
863 West Hastings, Vancouver,
604.801.6928



Masoud Zadeh *Pots on the Rocks* May 20-21, Hornby Island rock formations, 250.703.9737

Tozan Show June 6 - 27, opening reception June 5 250.245.4867, Nanaimo Art Gallery, downtown Nanaimo.

TRAVEL TO MEXICO

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phone or fax 250.537.4906
email <denysjames@hotmail.com>

LETTER TO MEMBERS

The week of endless possibilities . . .

That is the week of endless volunteer possibilities draws near for our lucky members. It is May 2 to 7 when **Lottery for Pottery** and **Made of Clay** happen at Performance Works on Granville Island.

How many of you have phoned Ron Feicht, and sorted out your hours volunteering at the Market yet? Or are helping out at the **You Too Can Raku**? Have you phoned in about bringing in your **Lottery for Pottery** piece yet? Do I sound like I'm nagging yet? We have almost 80 pots for the Lottery and would like 30 more. Please phone in if you are submitting a work and save us much time. Be sure to tell us if you want the \$40, or whether you would like to donate; there is no pressure, please do what is best for you. Those who put a pot in the **Lottery** are welcome to attend as a guest and bring a buddy. There are lots of volunteer jobs at the **Lottery** too; do help if you can. Also consider buying a ticket, and you can bring a friend, get wine and dine, and entertained, and take home a fine collectable. It's a great event!

There have been a good number of wonderful volunteers helping out this month. Sheila Jahrus, Alison Feargrieve, Ron Vallis, Tam Irving and Celia and Keith Rice-Jones have all been working on the renos and painting. Keith Lehman and Carole Henshall built shelving in the new storage room. Sheila Morissette helped at the openings and Lynne Graham worked in the office. A brand new member, Carol Matecha has offered to help Rona Hatherall, Marie Smith and Alison Feargrieve stuff newsletters; they can always do with some company; do phone in and join the party.

Thank you to the nifty volunteers, one and all. For the rest of you, please phone in and give yourselves a job, and help out your Guild. You are needed.

Be seeing you at the **Lottery for Pottery**, **Made of Clay**, **You Too Can Raku**, the **AGM** or perhaps sitting at the Market. Phone me, Debra Sloan 604.736.3039 or <dsloanis@home.com> and let me know which events you want to assist at. I'm holding my breath.

Debra Sloan

LOTTERY FOR POTTERY

Tuesday, May 2, Preview noon - 17:00
Doors open 18:00; Lottery begins at 19:00

Performance Works

1218 Cartwright Street, Granville Island

Donations and ticket sales still needed! Many members of the Guild have already been contacted or have already donated - thank you. Since the Guild is not able to write tax receipts, part of the cost has been calculated to include the purchase of the donated works for \$40 each (half of the profit from the \$85 ticket); this money will be distributed following the event.

All makers of donated pieces are welcome to attend the event at no charge. Of course, you'll need to purchase an \$85 ticket to be included in the draw, but otherwise please come and be part of the celebration!

For more information please call:

Jane Matthews	604.669.5645
Gillian McMillan	604.937.7696
Debra Sloan	604.739.3039
Rachelle Chinnery	604.874.8518

Michael Collins Wholesale

Potters' Accessories

Pâté and Butter Knives, Spoons, Picde Forks, Pestles, Honey Dippers, Cane and Wire Handles, Oil Lamp Burners and Chimneys, Cheese Domes, Corks, Shaving Brushes, Soap Pumps, Lamp Parts, Fiberglass Wick, Plate Stands, Clock Movements and MUCH MORE!



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WANTED

Steel kickwheel, college style with
tabletop and bench. Jeanne 604.430.5380

Gas kiln building supplies for free, trade
or purchase. Keith or Carole, Poplar Stu-
dio 604.886.7345

STUDIO SPACE

Shared pottery studio, 5th and Yukon,
Vancouver, single and three-phase power.
Jennifer 604.733.1992

LOOKING FOR WORK

Full, part-time or piece work in ceramic
studio, Vancouver area. 12 years profes-
sional experience in the arts. Currently
retraining in ceramics. References on re-
quest. Sheryl Wilson 604-323-9442

FOR SALE

Large top loading Estrin kiln silicone
carbide shelves, O Haus scale, over \$1000
worth of **glaze chemicals and oxides**,
\$800 worth of **metal shelving**, storage
cupboard, utility cart and throwing bats,
many extra tools and supplies. Asking
\$1800 for everything 604.434.3610

7 cubic ft gas kiln in excellent condition
\$600 Eun Joo Choi 604.669.5696

Large house and pottery studio, 6 acres,
secluded, panoramic views, developed
garden. Production studio: insulated and
wired for electric kilns, kiln room, castle
gas kiln, shelving, chemical storage, and
kiln shed. Near Powell River. Lu
604.483.4587 or email <lular@prcn.org>

Small electric Cress kiln, to cone 6, inte-
rior approx. 3 cu ft. Needs repair, approx.
\$50-100; kiln furniture \$150. Contact
Linda 604.708.0209

NEWSLETTER

SUBMISSIONS

Information, photographs, letters,
reviews, membership news and an-
nouncements are welcome anytime.
Space is limited; please submit text
as brief as possible and identify im-
ages. Be certain to include your name
and telephone number.

Material received after the deadline
will be considered for following news-
letters. We reserve the right to edit for
space and clarity. Send to the address
shown below.

DEADLINES

July/August	Wed, Jun 7
September	Wed, Aug 10
October	Wed, Sept 14
November/December	Wed, Oct 12
January 2001	Wed, Dec 6

General Manager

Jane Matthews

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